



## *Newsletter October 2014*

Dear Parents

I don't know whether today is 'Bad' or 'Mad' Hair Day, either way the staff and pupils are loving it; an opportunity to see each other's preferred styles and to be able to smile in spite of the sad circumstances that surround our chosen fund raiser. Thank you for supporting the memory of Mrs Shore-Nye and what she believed in.

As always this half term has been a full one, not just pupils settling in to their new year groups and forging ahead with their learning but also with the many enrichment activities that make up so much of what Ralph Sadleir offers its pupils.

- I mentioned to a colleague in another school that every one of our Year 6 had been on the week long PGL trip; they were astounded!
- One of the 'Dragons' that Year 8 faced at the end of their Business and Enterprise week is more used to working with sixth formers setting up businesses rather than 12 year olds. In terms of skills and knowledge he saw very little difference; a real credit to the learning that went on that week and the relative maturity that is engendered in Ralph Sadleir pupils.
- Year 7 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Day brought many compliments from the visiting scientists and engineers; being questioned by eleven year olds about their jobs proved more thought provoking than they expected. For the pupils their eyes have been opened to the possibilities of future careers.

Congratulations must go to Jasmine T (IAP) who is British Judo Champion Open Masters Championships 2014. Well done Jasmine!

Congratulations also go to our Year 5 and 6 girls' football team who are the District Champions and will now play in the county finals later next year.

After this long half term your children are exhausted. I hope you, and they, have a restful holiday and they return refreshed on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Liz Hinton

### **REMINDER**

Parents **SHOULD NOT** drive into the school car park after 8.00am to drop children in a morning. It is dangerous as so many children are walking into school and the cars are a danger to pedestrians, particularly as some parents are driving into and out of school at an unacceptable speed. Concern has been raised by local pedestrians and motorists.

### Dates for your Diaries

Half Term Break	Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct
Inset Day	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term	Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov – Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Occasional Day	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>(Please note that on Occasional Day, the school is closed)</b>	
Terms Ends	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm
Christmas Break	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec – Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2015

### Spring Term 2015

1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term	Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Half Term Break	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb
2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb – Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
Easter Break	Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> April – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> April
Inset Day	Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> April
Term ends	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April at 2.30pm

### Summer Term 2015

1 <sup>st</sup> Half Term	Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> April – Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
May Day Holiday	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May
Half Term Break	Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> May
2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Term	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July
Term ends	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm

Further term dates can be found at:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/schlfe/termdates/>

### DINNER MONEY

#### Autumn Term 2014

Per Day - £2.25

Per Week - £11.25

2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term - £74.25

If your child is going on one of the various school trips please deduct the appropriate amount

#### Cheques payable to

#### Ralph Sadleir School

Please put the child's name and 'dinner money' on the back of cheques.

Please refer to our website to read our policy on School Dinners Bad Debt

<http://ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk/school-dinners/>

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Changes to meal patterns**

A meal pattern has been set for your child.

Any changes to the pre defined patterns must be notified to the school office **before registration** otherwise you will be charged for the school meal.

Please contact the office if you have any queries.

.....

#### Attendance

If your child is absent from school it is essential that you telephone the school before 8.45am.

If we do not hear from you, your child's absence may be marked as unauthorised.

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATIONS**

Herts County Council is working to promote free school meals and educational benefits to make sure that as many eligible children and families as possible get the support they are entitled to.

Families are able to apply in any of the following ways:

Online: at [www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals).

Smartphone: using the LookingLocal app available from app stores.

Digital TV: The Community Channel – press the red button

Wii/Xbox/PS3: at [www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect](http://www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect)

Phone: 0300 123 4084

We can help you if you do not have access to the internet.

## **Assembly Visitors**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, we were very lucky to host Bryant Blades Fencing who came to Ralph Sadleir to promote the sport of Fencing and to announce their new club which will be starting here after half term. The school were engrossed listening to Melanie Bryant (Coach and club manager) and Acland Bryant (Level 2 Foil coach and member of the World class program and GB squad) as they spoke with enthusiasm and passion about their sport. Some of the pupils got hands on with the equipment and donned masks to learn a traditional fencing salute, a show of respect which competitors carry out prior to a contest. Details of the new club will go out to parents this week and I would like to say a huge thank you to Melanie and Acland from Bryant Blades for taking time from their busy schedule to come and speak to the school.

Please visit our website for more pictures.



### **Ralph Sadleir Website**

Our school website is nearly a year old. The website is something we are very proud of and aim to keep it as up to date as possible. It is a useful tool to keep you all updated on events going on in the school and what your child may be part of. Our Calendar page holds events up to July 2015 so you are aware of what is happening way ahead of time.

We ask all parents/guardians to add the website to their favourites and regularly visit the site and check for updates, news items and curriculum information.

We welcome any website feedback you can give and this is easy for you to do. Just click on the red website feedback button that appears on the right hand side of every page. Your comments or email address are not published.

Many thanks

Mrs Hurren, Marketing / ICT Administrator

### **Ralphies Remembrance Day School Lunch**

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November, Ralphies are dishing up a delicious war time menu to remember the sacrifices made by armed forces during times of war.

If your child does not normally have a school lunch and would like to take part, please send £2.25 in to the school office, and mark it clearly with your child's name and Remembrance Day Lunch.

The menu is on our website - <http://ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk/ralphies-theme-days/>

### **Book Amnesty**

Too many library books are not being returned - please, please check your children's rooms to see if they have any outstanding books, as we want all our books to be available to all our pupils.

Many thanks

Mrs C Woollard  
Librarian

### **News from Ralphie's**

When we return in November we will be starting our new menu, which can be viewed on the school website.

For the first four days (4th - 7th November) we will be launching our new menu with a School Meals Week. Pupils who have a school meal will be entered into a draw to win I-Tune vouchers. There will be one prize winner per school year. If your child does not normally have a school meal on these days, you can book them in at the School Office.

On the 11th November we will be serving a special meal for Remembrance, this menu is a 1940's Wartime style menu, which can also be viewed on the school website.

It has been a fantastic start to the school year for Ralphie's serving the highest ever number of school meals on record! Mr Rowe will be meeting pupils again next half term to capture more ideas and feedback, plus to discuss the Christmas Lunch Menu.

## **Ralph Sadleir Sports Round Up – First half Autumn Term**

What a start it has been to this academic year for our sports teams here at Ralph Sadleir! Early this half term some of our Year 6 boys were invited to trials for the North Herts District team. All of the boys who went to trials have made the squad which is a big achievement so a congratulations go to them for excellent performance and effort.

September saw some of our Year 5 pupils get their first taste of competition by attending the Schoolympics event at Meridian School in Royston. Our pupils competed in BMX racing, hockey and basketball and performed really well, with our basketball players picking up second place and a silver medal!

October kicked off with the North East Herts District cross country event at Edwinstree School. Our Year 7 and 8 runners performed very well and our Year 7 boys in particular took second place in the team category by the smallest of margins which was a great achievement.

Our Year 7 football team kicked off their season with a Win against Edwinstree School, whilst our Year 6 team lost narrowly 4 – 3 to St Edmunds Prep. The Year 5 team began their season with a 4 – 1 win over St Edmunds Prep, this game saw some terrific goals from the boys and they look strong.

The Year 8 football team were unlucky to lose in their first match of the season, going down 5 – 4 to King Harold Academy in what was an end to end game which saw the momentum swing several times to make for a tense but enjoyable game.

The Year 6 tag rugby squad took part in the NEH District tournament and showed some excellent play. The A team lost to the eventual winners in the Semi-final, with our B team losing narrowly in the final but doing enough to claim the silver medal. Well done to all of the Year 6 boys and girls who took part!

Staying with KS2, our girls football team were looking forward to playing their first games as we hosted the NEH District girls football competition on a cold and blustery Tuesday. The girls went on to record a 3 – 0 victory over Edwinstree, followed by a 2 – 0 victory over Greneway. The final match was against St Mary's, and the winner would go through as champions to the County round of competition. A tense first half ended goal-less which would put St Mary's favourites with a superior goal difference from their previous games. With just a minute left, a free kick from Lily Hall was flicked over the goal keeper and in to make the score 1 – 0 to Ralph Sadleir! The girls held on to win the tournament and they will progress to the County round later this year, a fantastic achievement and a first for us at Ralph Sadleir in this competition.

The Year 7 football team rounded off a successful half term by recording a 4 – 1 win over Goffs School in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round ESFA competition. A tough first half showed the calibre of our opponents but we raised the bar second half and some excellent finishing from Austen and Dominic G put the game to bed and cemented our place in the third round.

A huge well done to all who have participated and competed as part of the school teams, next half term promises to be even more hectic and we hope for more success.

*Mr S Morgan*

## **Algebra Games are a success in Uganda**

Current Y7 pupils were excited to see the photographic evidence of their algebra games being used in Ugandan classrooms. The games had been made at the end of Y6 and were taken out to Uganda by Mrs Hanson to support her 'Talk Maths' project. The photos clearly show the delight and engagement of the Ugandan pupils. We will continue to support this excellent project.



## Quotes from Year 6 following their residential trip in September.

"I learned that friendship isn't just about playing but about staying by your side, to give support, to work as a team, and to give you courage when you need it. Don't let fear get hold of you". Fave C.

"PGL has made me a better person because I have made new friends and I have gained more confidence".  
Jennifer J.

"I have made a lot of friends. Be kind to your friends and they will be kind to you. Friendship is very important so be resilient".  
Jack S.

"At PGL I found out more about people I don't normally talk to. I also did the zip wire that looked scarier when I was up there. I also climbed the climbing wall and managed to ring the bell at the top of the wall. ON the Jacobs Ladder I got to the 6<sup>th</sup> ladder with Luke and Louie". Bryn.

"PGL has helped me become a better person by encouraging me to work together as a team with people I don't get along with. It has also helped me overcome my fears and to do things which are out of my comfort zone".

"PGL has helped me because when I got there I was quite scared but when I did the 3G swing, I overcame my fears. My favourite activity was the 3G swing. I really wish I could go back again to do the things I didn't do". Ella C.

**Please visit the Gallery page on our website to look at fantastic photographs taken from the trip.**